SPECIAL FEATURE
LAPIDUS

APRIL 11, 1978

FRIENDSHIP FORCE
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: WHILE DIPLOMATS TALK ABOUT PEACE, EITHER AT CONFERENCE TABLE OR BEHIND LOCKED DOORS, OTHER PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING IT BY MEANS OF THE "FRIENDSHIP FORCE."

TAPE: CUT ONE -- SMITH :07

"THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE IS A PRIVATE, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM. ITS PURPOSE IS TO ESTABLISH FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD."

ANNCR: AFTER WORLD WAR ONE, THERE WAS A FEELING IN THE UNITED STATES THAT IF ONLY THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER, THERE WOULD BE NO MORE WAR. A HALF A CENTURY LATER, THAT IDEA HAS SURFACED AGAIN...AS THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE. _____IS HERE TO TELL US ABOUT IT."

VOICE: THE REVEREND WAYNE SMITH RETURNED TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA, IN 1973, AFTER LIVING IN BRAZIL FOR SEVEN YEARS. HE SUGGESTED TO THE GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA THAT HE AND HIS WIFE AND STAFF VISIT BRAZIL AND MEET THE REVEREND'S FRIENDS. THEY DID, AND THE VISIT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT THE GROUP DECIDED TO CONSOLIDATE THE FRIENDSHIPS THEY MADE WITH AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THEY CHARTERED AN AIRPLANE AND FLEW 197 GEORGIANS TO BRAZIL AND 197 BRAZILIANS TO GEORGIA: ORDINARY CITIZENS, STAYING WITH OTHER ORDINARY CITIZENS, MAKING NEW FRIENDS. AND THEY DID IT AGAIN THE NEXT YEAR. AND WHEN GOVERNOR JIMMY CARTER OF GEORGIA BECAME PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER OF THE UNITED STATES, HE EXPANDED THE LOCAL PROGRAM TO A NATIONWIDE PROGRAM.....THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE.

VOICE: (CONT) REVEREND SMITH IS NOW PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, MANY AMERICANS THIS YEAR HAVE A ALREADY MADE NEW FRIENDS IN ENGLAND, VENEZUELA, IRELAND, ISRAEL, MEXICO AND BELGIUM, AND PEOPLE FROM THOSE COUNTRIES HAVE STAYED IN HOMES ALL OVER AMERICA. REVEREND SMITH SAYS THE REACTION FROM THE PARTICIPANTS HAS BEEN SENSATIONAL. FUTURE TRIPS ARE PLANNED TO KOREA AND AFRICAN NATIONS AS WELL AS MORE TRIPS TO EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. REVEREND SMITH SAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MANY MORE NATIONS INVOLVED...AND SO WOULD PRESIDENT AND MISSUS CARTER.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- SMITH :14

"ROSALYN AND JIMMY CARTER SPEAK WITH HEADS OF STATE WHEN THEY COME THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THEY TELL THEM ABOUT OUR PROGRAM, AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO ... ACTIVATE LOCAL COMMITTEES ON A PRIVATE BASIS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL-WAY, IN THEIR COUNTRIES. "

VOICE: THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE PROGRAM RECEIVES NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING. VOLUNTEERS PAY 250-DOLLARS FOR THEIR FLIGHT, THEY HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE IN THEIR SAME PROFESSION TO HOST AN EXCHANGE VISITOR, AND THEY HAVE TO BE WILLING TO GO ANY-WHERE IN THE WORLD...

TAPE: CUT THREE -- SMITH :39

"WE USE THAT PHASE "FRIENDSHIP FORCE" LIKE ALMOST ARMED FORCES, EXCEPT WE DON'T GO TO FIGHT, WE GO TO MAKE PEACE. AND WHEN YOU JOIN THE ARMY, OR WHEN YOU JOIN A CORPS, OR A FORCE, YOU JOIN FOR A PURPOSE. WELL, OUR PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP. AND YOU PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP WITH PEOPLE, NOT WITH PLACES OR THINGS. THIS ELIMINATES A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE SIMPLY TO MAKE A CHEAP, TOURIST TRIP. AND WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE TYPE PEOPLE THAT WILL VOLUNTEER UNDER THESE SORTS OF CONDITIONS ARE TRULY ADVENTURSOME, PIONEERING-TYPE, FRIENDLY PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO GO AND BE GOOD-WILL AMBASSADORS FOR THEIR COUNTRIES."

VOICE: (CONT) THE REGULAR TOUR OF DUTY IN A COUNTRY FOR THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE IS EIGHT DAYS. VOLUNTEERS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOME SIGHTSEEING, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, BUT THE FIRST FOUR DAYS IN A COUNTRY ARE SPENT WITH THE HOST FAMILY.... OBSERVING THEM ON THE JOB, GETTING TO KNOW THE INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE THAT'S THE GOAL OF THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE...GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. AGAIN, REVEREND SMITH:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- SMITH

"WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE WE HAVE JET AIRCRAFT, BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS USE THEM WISELY. WE USE THEM TO DROP BOMBS ON PEOPLE. WE USE THEM FOR SPYING. WE USE THEM FOR A LOT OF GOOD PURPOSES, AS WELL. WELL, HERE'S A PURPOSE WHERE WE OUGHT TO BE USING THE JET AIRCRAFT...AND EVEN TOURISM, AS FINE AS THAT IS, TAKES PEOPLE TO SEE THINGS. BUT WHEN WE START MEETING PEOPLE AND LIVING IN THEIR HOMES...THIS IS GOING TO IMPROVE THE ENTIRE ATMOSPHERE FOR PEACE. WE HAVE OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN THE WORLD. AS WE LOOK AT THE RESULTS OF THESE, NOT ALL OF US ARE SATISFIED WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING. AND I'M CERTAIN THAT OUR AMBASSADORS AND CAREER DIPLOMATS ARE DOING AS BEST THEY KNOW HOW. BUT I THINK JUST COMMON, ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...AS WE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER, AND IMPOVE THE CONDITIONS FOR FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE IN THE WORLD. THIS IS WHAT THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE IS TRYING TO DO, AND, GOD-WILLING, THIS IS WHAT WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO DO FOR YEARS TO COME."

VOICE: REVEREND WAYNE SMITH, PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE.

ANNCR: IF YOU'D LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE, CONTACT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN YOUR COUNTRY, OR WRITE DIRECTLY TO THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE AT OMNI INTERNATIONAL, 575 SOUTH, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, USA. ....30303.

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